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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Merciful God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people's House, enlighten their hearts, and give them the light and strength to know Your will and make it their own.

Guide them by Your wisdom and support them with Your power. For You desire justice for all, and we ask You to enable them to uphold the rights of all.

May they not be misled by ignorance nor corrupted by fear or favor but, rather, faithful to all that is true. As they work through this day and these weeks, may they temper justice with love, and may all their deliberations be pleasing to You.

May all that is done within these hallowed Halls be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal. The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING LAWRENCE LAURENZI

(Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and good friend of mine, Lawrence J. Laurenzi.

After 36 years of service to the Department of Justice and the Western District of Tennessee, Larry is retiring from his post as the first assistant United States attorney. Larry Laurenzi has served under 6 Presidents, 11 Attorneys General, 9 United States attorneys; and on four separate occasions, he has acted as the United States attorney during times of vacancy.

During my time as the United States attorney, I saw firsthand Larry's strong work ethic and his dedication to making west Tennessee a safer place and defending the United States of America. Without a doubt, Larry Laurenzi is a true public servant.

While Larry soon will no longer be a Federal prosecutor, I know that he will never stop working to make his community a better place. I will always be grateful for the time that we worked together. I wish Larry; his wife, Pam; and their whole family the best as they begin their next exciting chapter of life.

Congratulations, Larry.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, prescription drug prices are skyrocketing. Every day, constituents tell me about outrageous prices they are forced to pay for medications just to stay healthy.

Janice from Albany, in my district, wrote me last year about a drug she takes to manage her mental illness. Her monthly cost went from \$9 to \$342.

Irene from Hagaman has said her monthly prescriptions have jumped from \$35 to \$250.

Regina from Rexford saw the monthly cost of her rheumatoid arthritis medicine jump from \$2,800 to \$3,700 in just one year. That is a bad deal.

Every Member of this body has heard these stories. Despite these cries for help from our constituents, Congress has failed to act. President Trump made lowering prescription drug prices a centerpiece of his campaign. What has he done about it?

America leads the world in developing new and innovative lifesaving cures, something we should be proud to continue; but many of our own citizens don't have real access to those innovative treatments. That is a bad deal. Drug pricing is complex, but in the richest Nation on Earth, no one should have to go bankrupt to obtain lifesaving medicine. We have to do better.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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